

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church
(Dormition of the Mother of God)**

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Sunday February 4, 2018

Afterfeast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple; Venerable Isidore of Pelusium, monk; Saint Nicholas the Confessor, Abbot of the Studion; New-Martyr Joseph of Aleppo; Saint George, prince of Vladimir; Saint Cyril, Abbot and Wonder-worker of Novozersk (Novgorod); Martyr Jadorus; Hieromartyr Abramius, Bishop of Arbela in Assyria; Saint John, Bishop of Hirenopolis, one of the 318 fathers of Nicaea; Saints Abraham and Coprius, monks of Pechenga (Vologda); Martyr Theoctistus; Saint Jasim the Wonder-worker; Saint Evagrisi, disciple of St. Shio; Saint Theodosios the Righteous; Saint Modan, Abbot of Stirling and Falkirk; repose of royal Recluse Dosithea of Moscow

Services for the week of February 4

Saturday, February 10: 9:00 am Divine Liturgy. First Soul Saturday. 6:00 pm Great Vespers

Parish News

WELCOME: to all of our guests today. We are so glad that you have come to enjoy our Orthodox worship. We invite you to come for coffee and sweets in our church hall and to enjoy fellowship with us. May God bless you!

OFFERINGS: January 28: \$1492.00

PLEASE REMEMBER Janet Mikel and Martha Smith as well as Marin Sandu (Dr. Alina's stepfather) who are suffering from serious illness. Fr. John Zboyovski who serves in North Carolina and is known by many in our parish is still recovering from a stroke. Please remember him as well. May God continue to bless and strengthen them!

PARISH ASSESSMENTS are now due. This money is paid to the Diocese and not to the parish. Every member over the age of 18 is asked to pay \$75.00 with a check paid to the parish. The memo line should read: Diocesan Assessment. All the assessments will be bundled by our church and sent in a lump sum to the diocese once all are collected. Anyone who might have trouble with this sum is asked to speak to Fr. Mark. He will confidentially assist. According to our Diocesan laws, this act is one of the two things we do to maintain "official membership" in the parish. The other thing we do is to confess and commune during the Great Fast.

HOME BLESSINGS continue this week. Please speak to Fr. Mark if you would like your home blessed. Two weeks remain until homes cannot be blessed as the Great Fast will begin on February 19.

REFLECTION

Impose upon yourself some form of penance [Epitimija] for the sins of others. If you have judged someone or punished someone, impose upon yourself a form of penance. You should also suffer voluntarily for the sins of sinners. This is pleasing to God. This mystery was known by the saints who condemned themselves for the sins of others. Even non-Christian peoples perceived this mystery. There exists this custom in China: when an executioner beheads a criminal who is sentenced to death, he then approaches the judge and informs him that the verdict was carried out. The judge then reimburses him with a silver coin because he killed the criminal and orders that the executioner be whipped forty lashes because he killed a man. Christian saints profoundly understood the mystery of sin and human injustice. For the saints, all human sin has as long a history, as there is distance from us to Adam.